

Mpox (MPV)

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What is mpox?

Mpox is a rare but potentially serious disease that is caused by the mpox virus. Mpox virus is from the same family of viruses as the smallpox virus. Mpox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but are less severe. It is also less transmissible than smallpox, and rarely fatal. Mpox can spread from infected humans, animals, and materials contaminated with the virus.

How does it spread?

This mpox virus can spread from person to person through [close or intimate contact](#), including:

- direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids
- respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex
- touching items (such as clothing or bedding) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids
- pregnant people can spread the virus to their fetus through the placenta

What are the symptoms of mpox?

Anyone who becomes infected with mpox will likely [develop a rash](#) that may appear on or near the genitals or anus, and possibly other areas such as the hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth. Some may experience flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, and enlarged lymph nodes. Symptoms generally appear one to two weeks after exposure, and illness typically lasts for two to four weeks.

How can it be prevented?

Vaccination is an important step in preventing the spread of mpox. The Midland County Department of Public Health is offering the [JYNNEOS vaccine](#), which is approved for the prevention of mpox disease in individuals 18 years of age and older at high risk for mpox infection. JYNNEOS vaccine can be given by subcutaneous or intradermal route. In addition to vaccination, [safer sex practices](#) can also help to keep you and your partner(s) safe and healthy.

[Vaccine Eligibility in Michigan:](#)

In Michigan, the mpox vaccine (JYNNEOS) is available to those who have been exposed to someone with mpox and/or anyone who thinks they may be at risk. Mpox vaccine supply is currently very limited. As more doses become available, vaccine availability may expand further.

If you would like to schedule an appointment to receive the JYNNEOS vaccine, please call our Communicable Disease Clinic at (989) 832-6666.